(d) Two Million Housing Programme was launched in 1998-1999 under which 7 lakh dwelling units are to be constructed in Urban areas and 13 lakh in rural areas every year.

In addition to this, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme called Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana (VAMBAY) is being implemented since 2.12.2001 with a view to provide shelter or upgrade the existing shelter for the urban slum dwellers living below poverty line who do not possess adequate shelter.

UNDP Project for Poverty Alleviation

2155. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:

Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Nation Development Programme (UNDP) is taking up a pilot project in the country for poverty alleviation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) The development objective of the Government of India (GOI) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Project for the National Strategy for Urban Poor signed in October, 2003 is to support adoption of a new national strategy for urban poverty reduction at the Centre and the States, based on informed debates, local/international experience and research findings on the causes and potential responses to urban poverty keeping in mind that institutional reforms to improve efficiency and accelerate human development progress are needed. The project would support a combination of initiatives like action research, platform and network building for dialogue on policies and regulations, a facility to support and disseminate best practices on urban livelihood and targeted support to community associations and NGOs for actual ground level work through two distinct but mutually reinforcing components, *viz.*, All India (National Component) and a Specific Delhi (National Capital Region-NCR) Component.